

Division of Probation and Parole/Adult

Officers in the Division’s 20 district offices are responsible for the supervision of inmates released on parole and diminution of sentence and those placed on felony probation. Probation and parole officers supervise payment of restitution and prepare reports for decision-makers (including the Courts and Parole and Pardon Boards). Officers interview victims for many of those reports and include victims’ statements about the possibility of release and monetary losses, which might require restitution upon release. Officers notify victims about up-coming parole hearings. Officers have the authority to arrest probationers and parolees with or without a warrant.

- ◆ Inmates released from incarceration to supervision have 48 hours to report to a district office.
- ◆ Persons on supervision must have permission to leave the boundaries of the supervising district.

*One way for victims to ensure that probation and parole officers can contact them is to register and maintain a current mailing address and telephone number with the Crime Victims Services Bureau.*

Current hearing docket information and hearing outcomes for both the Parole and the Pardon Boards are available on the Corrections web site. Additional information about board operations is available by contacting the boards as follows:

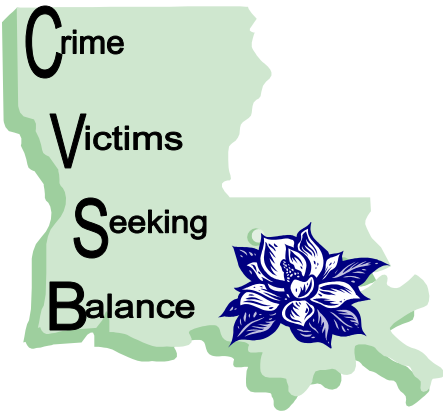
**Board of Parole (225) 342-6622**  
**Board of Pardons (225) 342-5421**

**Victim registration and victims’ communication with the boards are confidential.**



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Crime Victims Services Bureau



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Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections

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**The Crime Victims Services Bureau, a service of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, encourages crime victims and others directly affected by a crime to register for notice.**

If a criminal offender is sentenced “at hard labor,” he or she is under the department’s authority, and the department will provide the following information to registered persons:

- ◆ Initial housing location and projected release dates
- ◆ Furlough
- ◆ Release from incarceration by any means, including death
- ◆ Sentence change due to court action
- ◆ Assignment to work release
- ◆ Escape and apprehension
- ◆ Notice of Risk Review consideration

The department works with the Board of Parole and Board of Pardons to provide registered victims notice of parole and pardon hearings.

The department does not provide notice of transfer between institutions or of return to prison for violation of release conditions. The department is not party to appeals of inmates’ sentences and therefore is unable to provide information about pending appeals.

**Persons wishing to register for notification may contact the Crime Victims Services Bureau or their District Attorney’s office or download a registration form from the agency’s web site at [www.doc.louisiana.gov](http://www.doc.louisiana.gov). Registering with the Louisiana Automated Victim Notification System (LAVNS) is not sufficient to ensure notice from the Department.**



**Additional information available from the Crime Victims Services Bureau:**

- ◆ Victim-Offender Dialogue
- ◆ Department policies, programs, and practices
- ◆ Contact information for other agencies and organizations that assist crime victims
- ◆ Steps to halt unsolicited communications from inmates

Law also enables the victims of adjudicated juveniles to register when the offender is placed in secure institutional care. Notification includes parole, transfer to a non-secure program, discharge, and escape/apprehension. For information about this possibility, contact:

Office of Youth Development at 225-287-7900.



**Victims can call the Bureau to leave a recorded message. Someone will return the call on the next regular business day.**

Release from Institutional Custody

Most inmates are released by parole or diminution of sentence and continue to serve their sentences under parole supervision.

Parole is a conditional release from prison by action of the Parole Board. Inmates cannot be released on parole until the board announces and holds a public hearing.

Parole hearings are usually held about a month before an inmate’s parole eligibility date (the earliest date on which law allows release on parole).

Law and policy require that notice to victims and certain other persons be sent 30 days before the hearing date.

Diminution of sentence release is a conditional release from prison based on laws that allow inmates to earn credit for good behavior in prison. The more familiar term is “good time.” Inmates can also be required to forfeit “good time” as a penalty for institutional rule violations.

When an inmate’s diminution of sentence date arrives, the department must release the inmate from prison to be supervised “as if on parole.” It is a mandatory release date; there is no hearing.

Parole and diminution of sentence are conditional releases because, before being released, inmates must agree to follow a list of conditions. Failure to follow the rules may result in return to prison.

Inmates under supervision are monitored by a parole officer until their “full term date,” the date on which the full term imposed by the court is served.

Time Served Before Release on Parole or Diminution of Sentence

Almost every year new laws affecting release options are passed. Some of the laws that apply most broadly are outlined below.

Inmates sentenced to life in prison cannot be paroled or released on diminution of sentence unless their sentences are first commuted. (See section re. Board of Pardons.)

Inmates sentenced to a fixed number of years for a first-time “crime of violence” (COV), committed on or after January 1, 1997, are mandated to serve 85% of the time imposed by the court in institutional custody before being released to supervision by parole or diminution of sentence. “Crimes of violence” are listed in statute. As crimes are added, the date they become part of the list triggers the 85% provision.

Armed robbers generally cannot be paroled; they can, however, earn diminution of sentence.

Many sex offenders cannot earn diminution of sentence but do have the possibility of parole.

If COV provisions do not apply and offenders are otherwise parole-eligible, offender class determines the length of time that must be served prior to parole:

- ◆ First offenders can be paroled after serving one third of the sentence imposed by the court.
- ◆ Second offenders can be paroled after serving one half of the sentence imposed by the court.
- ◆ Inmates classified as third offenders or greater are generally not eligible for parole.

In addition, inmates who are sentenced to 30 years or more, serve 20 years in actual custody, and reach age 45 are eligible for parole consideration. (This law does not apply to inmates under sentence of life or death or those governed by COV law. It does apply to armed robbers who committed their crimes prior to January 1, 1997. It could create parole eligibility for inmates classified as third offenders or more.)

For inmates who earn diminution of sentence credits for crimes other than a COV, release from incarceration to supervision will come after serving about half of the sentence imposed by the court. The same is generally true for eligible inmates serving a fixed number of years for a COV committed before 1/1/97.

Inmates can also be released in other ways - for example, by court order or at full term or on good time without supervision.

La.R.S. 14:2(B) lists the following as crimes of violence:

Aggravated arson	Extortion
Aggravated assault	First degree murder
Aggravated assault upon a peace officer with a firearm	First degree robbery
Aggravated assault with a firearm	Forcible rape
Aggravated battery	Illegal use of weapons or dangerous instrumentalities
Aggravated burglary	Intentional exposure to AIDS
Aggravated crime against nature	Manslaughter
Aggravated criminal damage to property	Mingling harmful substances
Aggravated flight from an officer	Purse snatching
Aggravated incest	Second degree battery
Aggravated kidnapping	Second degree cruelty to juveniles
Aggravated rape	Second degree kidnapping
Aggravated second degree battery	Second degree murder
Armed robbery	Second degree robbery
Armed robbery; use of Firearm; add. penalty	Second degree sexual battery
Assault by drive by shooting	Sexual battery
Carjacking	Simple kidnapping
Disarming of a peace officer	Simple rape
	Simple robbery
	Solicitation for murder
	Stalking
	Terrorism

The attempt to commit one of these crimes qualifies as a crime of violence. Law allows a court to designate other crimes of violence.

Can the Board of Pardons influence an inmate’s release?

The Board of Pardons handles inmate requests for clemency—that is, for pardon, commutation, and restoration of rights lost as a result of a criminal conviction. Access to a hearing before the Board of Pardons is provided by the state’s constitution. A court cannot make an inmate ineligible for consideration by the Board of Pardons; however, state statutes do impose restrictions on how soon after sentencing inmates may apply for commutation.

- ◆ Commutation is the only non-judicial means by which a life sentence can be changed to a specified number of years.Only then is it possible for an inmate to be released from prison by virtue of parole or diminution of sentence. Many applications to the board request commutation of sentence--that is, a shorter sentence than the one imposed by the court.
- ◆ An inmate cannot be recommended for commutation of sentence until the board announces and holds a hearing.

Law and policy require that notice to victims and other persons and agencies be sent 30 days before an inmate’s hearing.

Commutation requests approved by the board are sent to the Governor, who makes the final decision to grant or deny the board’s recommendation.